



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
SOLDIERS SAILORS AND MARINES FUND**

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**TESTIMONY OF
JOHN D. MONAHAN, ADMINISTRATOR
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
OF THE
CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Distinguished members of the committee, my name is John Monahan, Administrator of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Marines' Fund. I come before you today to recommend adoption of legislation providing unemployment benefits for certain military spouses, Proposed Bill 6680.

As the members of this committee are aware, in recent years the Armed Forces of the United States of America, including the Connecticut National Guard and Armed Forces Reserve units, have assumed an increasingly important role in providing for our national security. No military operation of any complexity or duration can be undertaken by our armed forces today absent a significant contribution by guard and reserve units. Such forces have also assumed a central role for provision of Homeland Security.

Connecticut servicemen and servicewomen have been in the forefront of recent military operations and have demonstrated beyond doubt that they are worthy successors to the generations of Connecticut's sons and daughters who have rallied to our nation's defense since the earliest days of the republic.

The sacrifices of our service personnel, however, would be more burdensome, and in some cases, impossible, without the support of their families. The committee members are, no doubt, aware of the lengthy and multiple deployments which have been required of our personnel by our nation's current worldwide commitments. The strain imposed by such service can, and often does, result in financial strain on families. The proposed legislation seeks to mitigate the effect of relocations of military personnel by providing Unemployment compensation for military spouses who, through no fault of their own, find themselves without employment, owing to the requirements of military service. The provision of Unemployment Compensation benefits would provide the bridge for families undergoing a financial hardship while the previously employed spouse seeks employment in the State of Connecticut.

I believe strongly that it is fitting and proper that such benefits be made available and urge favorable consideration of PB 6680 as a means of partially repaying the enormous debt we owe our service personnel and their families.

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